5/78

MAY EDITION
1978

The Spark Gap

BOOK IV VOL V

WA1AHC

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

They say that life is short and you had better believe it because it seems that I just got through putting out the April edition of the Gap and here it is, time to get the May edition in the making. The months seem to just fly by, especially when you are as busy as we have been during the months of February, March and Apr-

.

At the first meeting of the month, on April 6th, we not only had a very interesting speaker, Bernie Glassmeyer, W9KDR, talking about the preparations of the prelaunch of OSCAR 8, but we were pleasantly surprised that John Sullivan, W1HHR, the New England Director of this Division, came by to chat with the members. It was nice renewing old acquaintances.

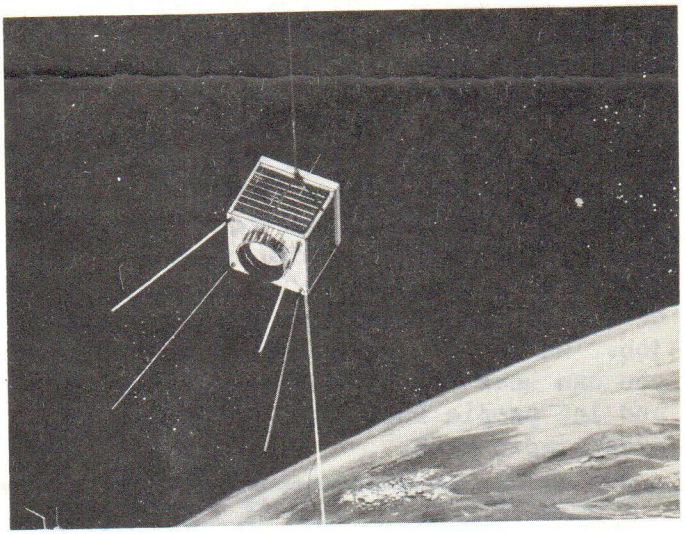
Bernie showed slides of the preparation of launching Oscar 8 into orbit from the Vandenburg AFB in California. From the pictures you could see the tension that registered on the faces of the ham volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make this thing work right once it got into orbit. They even wore white gloves while working on it, believe it or not.

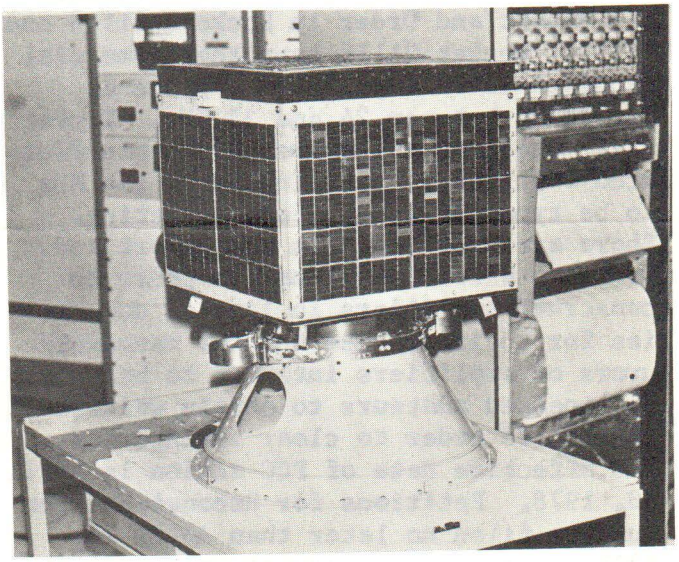
As you now know, Oscar 8 was launched in February and is doing just fine. When it comes into our area we can have communications for about 15 minutes and this is the forerunner of Oscar 9 or Phase III which will be the ultimate satellite (for the time being anyway,) that will allow communications via satellite, for up to 12 hours at an orbit. This one is due to go up in a couple of years from now and

CONT'D.....

many anxious hams are eagerly awaiting the Phase III operation.

Another interesting insight to the launching of these Oscars, (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio), was the cooperation between NASA officials and AMSAT. They went out of their way to offer some of their "know how" in attaching Oscar to the rocket that carried it into orbit.





The two above pictures are of Oscar 8 so you can see what it looks like. The

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:
May 4th (nomination officers 1978-9)
May 18th (Election officers 1978-9)
Intermediate Bldg., Wellesley Hills, Mass.

Cont'd from Page 1.....

top picture shows Oscar 8 on a stand to hold it while making tests in the lab. No antennas have been attached at this point but in the second photo you will see how Oscar 8 would look flying around in space.

All this made for an interesting evening for the 70 or so members in attendance and it was nice to see it happening.

In May we will be having nominations for the officers to take us through the 1978-1979 season made at the first meeting and on the second meeting on May 18th we will have the elections. Please give some thought about who you would like to nominate or vote for.

You will see some of the fellows wearing their new Tee Shirts bearing the Emblem of the club. These come in sizes of small, medium, large and extra large. The cost of them is $3.00 and are silk screen type. Thanks to Joe McGrath, WA1JIR for designing the emblem, he did a tremendous job. We would like to see you get one so you can wear it through the summer months and let people know that you belong to a great radio club.

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

NR 699 March 23...The FCC has released its Report and Order in Dockets 21116 and 21117. Docket 21116 bans the commercial manufacture of amplifiers capable of operation between 24 and 35 MHz. Docket 21117 requires all commercially manufactured amplifiers operating below 144 MHz to be type accepted before marketing. There are provisions in the Report and Order to allow individual amateurs to construct amplifiers in limited quantities for their own use and for manufacturers of amplifiers intended to be used by licensed amateurs to obtain waivers of the ban in order to clear inventories. The effective date of FCC action is April 28, 1978. Petitions for Reconsideration must be filed no later than April 19, 1978. Members may request copies of the Report and Order from ARRL. Send 24 cents and an SASE. AR

NR 700 March 23, 1978....The FCC took action on March 22, 1978 to allow amateurs to operate repeater, control and auxiliary link stations using their primary licenses. This effectively makes permanent the rule waiver presently in effect. In

ADDITION, THE FCC opened up new subbands for repeater use, but reserved specific segments for other than repeater operatio... In addition to the present repeater subbands, the following frequencies will be available for repeater operation; 144.5 to 145.5 MHz, 220 MHz and up with the exception of 220.0 to 220.5 MHz, 431 to 433 MHz and 435 to 438 MHz. We emphasize that these new repeater frequencies will not be in effect until the effective date of FCC action, which will be announced over W1AW. In addition, the FCC took action to authorize Technician Class members frequency privileges 50 MHz and up. The effective date of this action is also unknown, but will likely be at least 5 to 6 weeks in the future. Details will appear in May 1978 QST. AR

NR 701 March 30, 1978...FCC placed Phase 1 of a new callsign assignment plan into effect on March 24. Involved are all new amateurs, all amateurs who upgrade henceforth, and all Extras. Requests for unspecified calls within each of the groups may be made. Group A, for Extras only, includes 1X2, 2X1 and 2X2 AA to AL prefixes. Group B, for Advanced only includes 2X2 callsigns other than those in Group A. Group C is 1X3s, initially with N prefix, for General and Technicians. Group D is 2X3 calls for Novices. Repeater changes and Technician privileges above 50 MHz, as in Bulletin NR 700, will go into effect on May 15. On the same date, Novice changes from two years nonrenewable to five year renewable. Those Novices whose license expires prior to May 15 must be retested. Full details in May QST. AR

NR 702 April 6, 1978....The 29th annual Armed Forces Day communications tests will take place on Saturday, May 20. Military stations will make crossband military to amateur contacts from 1300Z May 20 through 0245Z May 21. The Secretary of Defense receiving competition will begin at 0300Z May 21, on cw at 25 wpm, followed by 60 wpm RTTY at 0335Z. Both tests will be conducted by WAR on 4030, 6997.5 and 14405 KHz and AIR on 7315 and 13997.5 KHZ. Copy exactly as received should be sent to the address transmitted by the station during the on the air instructions preceding the actual proficiency run. The schedule for

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JAMES W. HATHERLEY

THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, F.C.C. RULES & REGULATIONS CHANGES AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUATE TO THE SPARK GAP AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES (TYPEWRITTEN IF POSSIBLE) TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OR TO THE CLUB ADDRESS.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION AND ENCOURAGED PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY-$5.00. CLUB YEAR RUNNS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - JUNE 30. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY,
324 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS 02181

FROM THE MAILBAG

Recently heard on two meters that a DX'er was looking for a copy of an old ARRL Ham-Aid that would tell him in what direction to point his beam in order to better work certain countries. The person the DX'er was talking to said he had heard of this Ham-Aid but was sure that it was no longer published and it would probably be hard to come by a copy.

I didn't realize that this was a big problem for hams, so thought I would offer some help to members of WARS.

I have a programmable calculator that I have just programmed to handle this problem. It takes about one minute (55 seconds for me to lay out the problem and 5 seconds for the calculating time), and the answer pops out. All I need are the latitude and longitude of the home station and the latitude and longitude of the destination. In addition, and if the operator is curious, in another second, this program will produce the distance in nautical miles, statute miles or whatnot.

MAILBAG.....Cont'd.

Some of the readers of the Spark Gap may desire this information and can't find it elsewhere. Please tell them that I'm volunteering my services. All they have to do on their own is determine their own latitude and longitude and the same with the point they want to aim at, then contact me. I can calculate the heading and distance in no time. You can also add that if they are fuzzy on latitudes and longitudes, they are free to contact me for a short course on geography so that they can do their research on inputs to this program.

Respectfully,

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM
48 Hale St.,
Newton, Ma. 02154
(For phone number, check your roster)

- -

HISTORY OF ROUTE 9....George Young, WA1YAU

Up until 1806, residents of West Needham (now Wellesley), used the "central turnpike (Washington street from Newton Lower Falls through Wellesley into Natick). This and other roads were used as stage routes. Because the stage ran from Boston to Worcester via Waltham, Weston, Wayland, South Sudbury into Marlboro, and because a broad section of country (present day Route 9) had no transportation, it was decided to build a new road.

That year, the "Worcester Turnpike Corp." was organized, and, two years later, the new road was completed. Since it shortened the distance between Boston and Worcester, this road was soon heavily used by stage companies. Toll gates were erected and maintained at West Needham, Framingham, Southboro and Westboro.

On the opening of the Boston & Albany Railroad in 1834, people began preferring trains to carriages (by the way, this railroad is the oldest in New England). As a result, fees decreased so rapidly that, in 1841, the corporation gave up the pike.

For the next half century, Route Nine (or Worcester Road, as it has always been known), was to be maintained by the state. But, in 1899, the Boston & Worcester St. Railway Company was incorporated with the intent of building and operating an electric streetcar service on Worcester Road. Construction was begun in 1902, and streetcar service was begun the following year.

FROM THE MAILBAG.....Cont'd.

These cars ran on a schedule very similar to the one used by the MBTA today, with cars running through Wellesley Hills Square every twenty minutes. But, within the next twenty years, this line was made obsolete with the advent of the automobile. The railway company went into receivership as a result, and, in the years from 1932 to 1933, the tracks were torn up to make way for a highway. Also, the streetcar company was converted into a busline company (which has since been replaced by the Wellesley Fells Bus Company). Since 1933 the highway itself has gone from two narrow macadam roads to its present size. (Any of you older members old enough to remember all that?)

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"The Decoder"

#1. PEANUT WHISTLE JUNCTION..WB1BUP

"Oh, my gosh, what are you doing? Seeing you get rid of all that equipment is enough to make a grown man cry!", My friend cried, as if someone had just dropped a two ton block on his foot as I rattled off a list of the radio equipment I was unloading. He then put both of his hands to his face and just shook his head slowly. Why? Because I was making a clean sweep of my shack--to go QRP. And, as a result, I'm having more fun with ham radio than ever before!

This column will be devoted to QRP work; its challenges and problems, as well as its joys.

But first, what is QRPing? As many amateur radio operators know, the designation QRP stamds fpr "shall I reduce my power?" But reduced to what? Well, to many hams, QRP work means that their transmitters or transceivers run at less than 100 watts input. But, to the diehard QRP fan, a transmitter is not a transmitter less it runs with less than five watts input. And there are a few hardy souls who assault the airwaves with rigs running less than 500 milliwatts.

With definitions dispensed with, it's time (and I say this while wringing my hands in eager anticipation), to explode forever the biggest myth surrounding QRP work--nobody on those crowded bands will hear you! Bullfeathers! Let me take some random QSO's from my own log over a period of three weekends. What do we find? QSO's with stations in Illinois, Ohio, Georgia, and North and South Carolina, to name a few. These contacts lasted from 10 to 30 minutes (at up to 15 WPM CW), and signal reports ranged from 569 in Kalamazoo, Mich., to 599 in Graniteville, S.C. These stations were worked running one watt output into an indoor dipole in a downtown apartment surrounded by taller buildings. Several of the contacts were made on the novice bands amid umpteen other stations on nearby frequencies. So, repeat to yourself until you are firmly convinced: "I can get out, I can be heard, and I can get my signal out farther than my back yard!"

Now that we've put that myth to rest,

QRPing.....Cont'd.

let's take a look at some of the advantages to QRPing.

1. It is cheap! Although it can be expensive if you want to pick up a Ten-Tec low-power rig, for the most part you can buy or put together a rig, a nice keyer (my CW bias is beginning to show through!), a dandy keyer paddle, an antenna and a good CW filter, and cheerfully tip your hat to the Kenwood or Yaesu owner as you drive off to the bank to deposit the money you have saved.

2. It's a great way to put the radio theory you've learned, to work. QRPing offers many opportunities to build your own equipment, primarily because the commercial market is geared towards kilowatts, not milliwatts. Consequently, though you may be able to buy your rig off the shelf, you'll find that accessories like transmatches and SWR meters may have to be homebrewed if they're to help you get the maximum effect from a minimum amount of power.

3. It sharpens your operating skills perhaps better than any other form of hamming can do. Because you're competing with stations that in some instances are a thousand times bigger than you are, you develop a sharp sense of timing, patience, a keener ear, and efficient operating habits.

4. Power source options. Because QRP gear utilizes a low power, batteries often may be substituted for the AC to DC supply. This gives your station extra versatility, expecially during emergencies. And just think of the endless ribbing you can give that ham who lives on the next block (and owns the rig with the linear) when, during the next blackout, he is cut off just as a JA is answering his call, while you, the intrepid, over prepared ham, answer with candlelight to write by, pick up the call and help the interests of Japanese/U.S. relations.

These are some of the plusses to QRPing. And, with input and ideas from club members, together we just might come up with a few more!

profiles

CQ CQ CQ DE TA2AB K....If you heard this call in 1963, you would have been working Joe Borrow, K1GFH, as this was his call sign while in Turkey.

Joe Borrow, K1GFH, was born in Montreal Canada a few years ago and moved to Brighton, Mass. at the age of 10. He attended the famous Boston Latin School until his folks moved to Newton where Joe graduated in 1959 from Newton High School.

From here he went on to Tufts University to major in Experimental Psychology and graduated in the class of 1961. From here he joined the U.S. Air Force where they sent him on to U.C.L.A. in California for post graduate work in Industrial Engineering. Here he got his Master of Science degree. Joe went on to become a pilot in the Air Force. One of his bases was in Turkey which explains the opening lines of this profile.

Once out of the Air Force, he took up a position with Concept Industries where he is Vice-President of Marketing. His company makes scale models, mock-ups and design and build, show exhibits. In his job, Joe travels world-wide, although we hear him on 2 meters often, so he hasn't been doing that much travelling as of late. In his travels, he has had the opportunity to have many eyeballs with a lot of the hams he has worked on the air, which are many, and rarely goes into a town where he doesn't know someone.

Joe got interested in ham radio away back in 1958 when he was a short wave listener. One day he was invited up to see Paul Dumais' shack,(W1LJO). There he got bitten by the bug and soon got his license in 1958. Within a year he had upgraded to Advanced ticket. But then, when he got into his formal schooling, he let his ticket lapse and had to retake all the exams over again when he got back into ham radio. He says this was a mistake on his part and says that you should never let this happen to you, so take a word from the wise who have been through it. Fortunately, though his ticket had lapsed, he was still able to get his original call back and is the only one he has ever had except for the Turkish call TA2AB. His first transmitter was an old Harvey Wells TBS50C 50 watt AM job which some of you oldsters might

remember. He has since upgraded to a Kenwood TS820 with a Heath SB200 linear to a Moseley TA-33 triband beam atop of a 50' tower. He operates both sideband and CW. On CW he uses the Nye dual paddle to his home brew ACCU-MEMORY keyer.

Joe's main interests in amateur are in public service, (there is hardly an event that passes where you don't hear his familiar callsign), and DXing. Yep, he is one of those DX bugs and has worked such famous hams as Barry Goldwater, Arthur Godfrey, King Hussein, General Curtis LeMay and a few others. He also had the unique experience of coordinating Bob Hope's Annual Christmas tour in Europe and the Mid-East in 1963 and 1964. His DX record is also impressive, as K1GFH he has 201 confirmed countries, as K1GFH/6 he has 221 countries confirmed, and as TA2AB he had 246 countries under his belt confirmed. He just added Clipperton Island to that long list.

Joe is active in both the Middlesex and Wellesley radio clubs and you may remember his versatility in this hobby by the way he stepped in as an able auctioneer at our auctions. He is a guy of many talents.

His other hobby besides hamming, is fishing, both salt and fresh water variety. He just bought himself a Boston Whaler to go out where the 'lunkers' hang out in order to get the most out of his exploits. So, if you see someone out in a boat with a 2 meter rig going, it could well be Joe giving an on-scene of his latest 'bite'.

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PROFILES.....CONT'D....

Oh yes, Joe is a complete ham, having 2 meter capabilities and is now looking into the possibility of rigging up a RTTY station.

In addition to all these activities, he puts in plenty of family time with his wife Carol and their two children, Johanna, age 11, and Mark, age 8. Mark hopes to get his own ticket and get into ham radio in time.

Yep, that's Joe Borrow, K1GFH, a credit to any club or organization he chooses to affiliate with, and we are happy that our club is one of his affiliations.

* * * * * *

STATION ACTIVITIES

At this writing we haven't heard much more from the Collins company that is going through our club transceiver but it should be coming sometime soon. In the meanwhile we have the loan of a HW-101, so don't let this stop you from visiting and operating at the station console.

We have control operators at the club every weekday night of the week starting at 7:30 P.M. Just ring the doorbell at the right side of the front door in order to gain admittance to the building.

Once the rig is back in operation we hope to have a regular code practice session followed by the novice net, in order to help you improve your operating ability.

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

This month we have two new members to introduce to you, first is Howard Chick, WB1ECG from Franklin, Mass., and the other is Paul Adams who doesn't have his ticket yet but is attending the novice classes. Welcome aboard guys.

For any new prospective members, if you join the club now, even though the current year expires on August 31st, you will automatically be paid up members until 8/31/79.

"New Tickets"

We are happy to report that Ken Veznaian, WB1FCY, upgraded to Advanced class. Jim O'Connor, W1MIC, also went up to the Advanced and Dave Curry, ex-WA1TAK, is now sporting a new call since he upgraded to Extra, of K1TK.

Auctions / Flea Markets

MAY 6 CT. S.C.R.A.M.S. Tail-gate flea market 8:00 to ???? Ponderosa campgrounds RTE 161 East Lyme, CT. Rain or shine. You bring tables, refreshments available.

MAY 6 ME. Mid-Coast Spring Ham-fest. Sunbowl Ski Lodge, Ragged Mt. More info via K1RPE.

MAY 7 MA. South Shore ARC auction and flea market Viking Club, 410 Quincy Ave., (Rte 53), East Braintree, Ma. 10:00 AM for flea market and 2:00 PM for auction.

MAY 13 NH. Horse-Traders Tailgate-Swap-Fest 9:00 until closing. At Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, N.H. Profits go to the SHRINERS BURN CENTER.

MAY 20 RI. RI-FM Repeater(16/76) 10:00 AM Flea Market and auction will be at 1:00 at Steer's Beach Club, Waterman Lake, Greenville, R.I. I-95 to I-295 to Rte 44 West (3.4 miles.)

Jun 4 MA. Eastern CT ARC Fleamarket and auction. Rain/Shine. Point Breeze Restaurant Hall Rte 193 Webster, Ma. Food and Drink available.

DERRY NH SWAP NET EVERY TUESDAY 10:00 PM on 25/85.

ANYONE HAVING AUCTION OR FLEA MARKET INFO OTHER THAN LISTED HERE, PLEASE CONTACT RAY SHOOP, N1CW, 13 Royal Crest Drive, Marlboro, Ma. 01752. Tel: 481 6305.

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Wonder Abouts...

Wonder what has happened to Hal Alman, WA1TKD, David Crockford, WA1UMX, Paul Randazzo, WA1SXU, Ted Levin, WB1CFC. Where have you fellows been hiding? Let's hear from you.

We did hear that Tim McNamara is coming along pretty well after his car accident and that Cheryl Chesley, WA1TAL had a recent ear operation but is fine now and that NINA BRODIE, WB1ECJ is now a Tech. Nice going Nina.

"timeout!"

by Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

We are all aware of the explosive growth in the number of Radio Amateurs in recent years. Statistics show that the number has increased by about 22% annually. This is a mixed blessing. Several things have been responsible for the growth. Among them are 1.)Increased interest in "personal communications" due to the CB craze, 2.) The concerted effort to increase numbers as orchestrated by the ARRL. Our club and others have participated vigorously in the recruiting effort.

Whis is it a mixed blessing? Well, if you listen to the bands you will find few empty spaces. On the positive side we are told (principally by the ARRL), that more hams will lead to more frequencies at WARC and better treatment at the hands of the FCC.

Is this strategy working? Some would say no. The FCC has apparently turned a deaf ear to ARRL requests for new bands. In fact there is talk that our delegation to WARC will recommend a decrease in Amateur band space. Particularly the loss of part of 75 meters.

Somewhere, there has been a breakdown in communications between the ARRL and the FCC. This has been admitted privately by League officials and is evident by the recent spate of adverse rulings made by the FCC. Among these we list the ten meter linear ban which is grossly unfair and poorly conceived, the ban on special event call signs, and the push forwards creating a "CB type" amateur license class.

The reasons for the breakdown in communications between the ARRL and the FCC are subtle, but we must encourage our League to stop cowering in a corner and present our case in a more convincing and forceful manner. Then we can capitalize on our growth instead of choking on it.

de Mike Adlerstein, K1FB

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REMEMBER, WHEN ON TWO METERS, "BE POLITE, DON'T TAILBITE".

* * * *

An Optimist is a guy who sees his flat tire and says, well, it's only flat on the bottom.

ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE

FOR SALE: Signal One CX7B transceiver in excellent condition. $1000.00. Call Bruce WA1EOT at 522-5216 evenings.

FOR SALE: Swan 600T and 600R twins with phone patch, vox and speaker. $700.00. Call Jim, WB1BUR 289 0769.

Swan 300B transceiver in good condition. Call Bud Rath at 444 5092 days. $400.00. This includes a Swan VFO.

FOR SALE: Drake TR-33C 2 meter FM walkie with 10 crystals, antenna, manual. WANTED: 450 MHz FM hand held walkie. On either items, call Dave Curry, K1TK at 237 2450.

MINI PRODUCTS vertical antanna for 6, 10, 15 and 20 meters. No radials required. Ideal for limited space and only one month old. Call Bob Young, W1MXI, 484 0950.

* * * * *

"The Decoder"

New chief of the FCC's Safety and Special Services Bureau is Carlos Roberts, replacing Charley Higginbotham who retired officially on April 7th. We are sorry to see Charley go and hope his replacement is as good for ham radio as Charley was.

Drake's new TR-7 transceiver is all solid state, broadbanded (no tuning), fully synthesized, and available with or without digital readout/range expansion. The basic TR-7 covers the bands from 160 through 10 meters with expansion to 0-30 MHz receive and 1.5-30 transmit. Both TR-7 models will be shown at the Dayton Convention.

Heathkit Micoder users who've been troubled by frequency-stability problems can update their encoders with the crystal-controlled oscillator used in the Micoder II. Price of the modification kit is $9 plus 90¢ shipping from Heath.

5/78

'YL' Rumblings

Distortions on the Wire
or
Waw waw moo, it uhwish go!

There's a point I'd like to make to all hams concerning "Q.S.L.s" For the uninitiated, "Q.S.L." means "Questionable Speech Liaison." If one double chocolate cake with whipped cream, cherries and nuts is delicious, then two of the same can make you very, very, sick. In other words, guys, enough already. Moderation is the "key".

Let me give you a sad example of how much is too much. Last month we had severe storms which naturally led to most people having some time off. My husband and I were both off for a few days and, as was expected, he divided his time between skiing and his "rat shack." No big deal. He always makes an appearance during these times for his meals - food being another of his passions. So when he announced that he was going upstairs, I grunted and kept on with what I was doing. I finished the day. The kids me and went and it suddenly occurred to me that friend husband hadn't appeared for his nourishment, I sent Jr. upstairs to invite him down. "Mom," said Jr., "Something's wrong with Dad. I gave him your message and he looked at me and bared his fangs." Well. We all know the oddities of hams when they're on the radio, so I just ignored the whole business.

Midnight came, and I could still hear the dit-dahs from above. Ho hum. Another all-night session. So tonight I count dits instead of sheep!

Now it's not unusual for my husband to play with the radio till three or four in the morning, sneak down in between contacts for a snack, then go back up to the shack. But when I went into the kitchen the next morning I began to worry. Where were the tell-tale signs of his nocturnal bagel nosh? Everything was just as I had left it.

I busied myself during the day, and after dinner, when he still hadn't appeared, I fixed him a tray and climbed the ree flights to the "rat shack." As I neared the top, I stopped. What was this? The dit-dahs that had gone on for the last

twenty four hours had stopped, and a weird moo-ing was now coming from the radio. "Waw waw moo, it uhwish go." Foreign language, I thought. Good. Now he'll take a break. He speaks only English.... American? ..... He's understandable! "I'm having a hard time reading you," he said to the radio. "WAW WAW MOO. it uhwish go." It was trying desperately to be understood.

I knew instinctively that moving now would be a mistake. I froze in my tracks, peering intently over the railing. I sensed something was wrong. The light was poor. My husband's back was toward me and his head was low over the receiver. I put the tray on the steps and waited, watching the clock slowly tick the minutes into an hour. One hour became two. The scene was repeated over and over again, and all the while my husband's head was pressing closer and closer to the radio. "Please," he pleaded, "What is your call? I can't get a card without your call!" "Waw waw moo-o-o, it uhwish goo-o-." Now it was beginning to fade.

My body ached and I quietly inched up the remaining steps into the room. My husband's face was a close encounter of the worst kind. His eyes were bulging and bloodshot and his right ear was huge and red and had the identations of the radio dials on it. "Waw....waw.....moo, it... uhwish.....gooooo," it gasped as it faded out. "Now I understand you," my husband cried, "but your CALL. Your CALL." He understood it? He, who says he can't understand me after I've had two beers? Clearly the thing had him bewitched. Now he sat with his large ear pressed against its bosom. "Come back, Come back," he sobbed. "I've never contacted Collum Collum Youmee come back," he sobbed.

I backed away from him and the fool machine. The strange cacaphonous sounds were dit-dahing around in my head. My nerves snapped. I couldn't contain myself any long. I attacked the wretched thing. I pulled at its innards and twirled its dials until at last it was silent.

The deed was done.

The dit was dead!

Friend husband was beyond caring. For weeks after, the only thing he was heard to say was, "Come back.....come back.... come back...." But the experience ditten affect me. I was sorry afterward dat dah

YL RUMBLINGS.....CONT'D.....

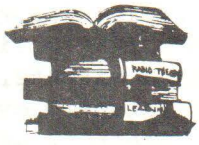
dit dit, and dah ditten mean to do dit, but dah dot pushed beyond my endurance.

Dit dah make my point?

WE/ARY

(ED NOTE: Where are WE/ARY's Sisters?)

education corner



Because we have been so busy in the month of April with the auction and the Marathon, I didn't get any input from the novice or general classes but I believe the novice class is about to be completed and the General class has a way to go yet.

However, there has been some inquiries about whether we intend to have a novice class during the summer months. At the moment nothing has come up to this effect and wondered if there was someone out there who would like to take on such a deal. Please contact Dave Curry, K1TK, ex-WA1TAK.

At the last report, the Novice class had passed their code tests and were awaiting their written exams to arrive for the final part of obtaining their tickets. We wish them good luck in the exams.

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ACTIVITIES

In finishing off this edition, we will be doing the annual BAA Marathon in the morning so just a few words about it here and will write a more detailed report of this exercise in the next edition. The club has been asked to undertake this job and we were honored to do so and know that it will be done to perfection as much work has gone into it. Being so near to our auction, it didn't seem feasible to take on such a project but your editor was voted down and away we went, straight into this exercise. I'll leave the opposite page free for pictures of the race so for now I'll sign with best 73's and thanks to all who took part in the auction and the Marathon.

Jim Hatherley WA1TBY,
Editor, Spark Gap.